

Flounder House  
317 S. St. Asaph Street  
Alexandria, Virginia

HABS No. VA-462

HABS  
VA  
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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Washington 25, D.C.

Flounder House  
317 S. St. Asaph Street  
Alexandria, Virginia

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Present Owner: Mrs. Charles Rollins

Present Occupant and Use: Residential

Description:

Brick, Flemish bond, Regional type. Alexandrians will tell you that the "Flounder House" came by its name from its comparison with the fish. It is a narrow structure split down its back, having half a gable or a shed roof. Flounder houses are nearly always set at right angles to - and back some distance from the street, with the long back wall on the side lot line. They usually had an upper and lower gallery facing the long garden side. The house at 317 S. St. Asaph Street is an outstanding example of Alexandria's brick flounders.

From all indications the "Flounder House" was planned and intended to become the ell of proposed town houses that were never completed. The reason may be that property owners were required by law to build within a specified time limit and the Flounder unit assured compliance. There are a goodly number of Alexandria homes that reveal an initial flounder wing joined up with later construction. At the same time the flounder type ell was equally highly favored for the enlargement of earlier conventional houses.

Historical Data:

Year of erection: Probably late 18th C.

Built for (first owner): Unknown

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

References: Antiques Magazine (Alexandria Issue), February, 1945, p. 92  
HABI form, prepared by T. Russell Jones and Worth Bailey,  
HABS, National Park Service, Dec. 1958.

Approved by Dick Suthon Date Feb. 16, 1959

Chief Architect